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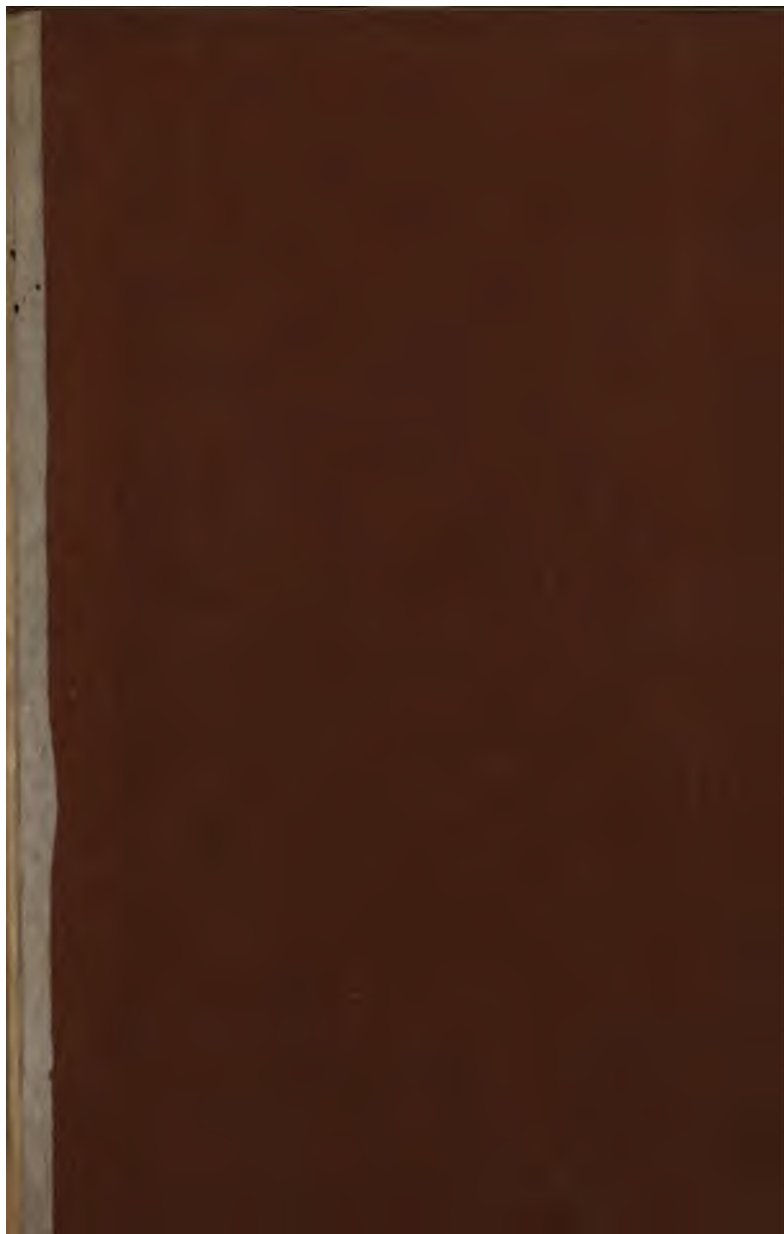
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Spelunca Duplex in Agro Ephronis.

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CARMEN LATINUM

CANCELLARII PRÆMIO DONATUM

ET

IN THEATRO SHELDONIANO RECITATUM

DIE JUNII XVII, MDCCCLXIII.

AUCTORE

THOMA LESLIE PAPILLON

COLL. BALL. SCHOL.



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**Spelunca duplex in Agro Ephronis.**

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FULGET adhuc crocea suffusum luce diei  
Occidui cœlum : morienti lumine Phoebus  
Lustrat arenosos colles, mediamque virentis  
Ægypti vallem, sacrique in margine Nili,  
Mirum opus artificum, moles, majoraque passim  
Humano simulacra. Gravem jucunda laborem  
Hora levat, fessosque operum dulcedine tangit.  
Hospes at externa moriens languescit in aula  
Languescente die : stat circum mæsta corona,  
Queis datur extremas ipsa sub morte loquelas



Cari haurire patris, pallentiaque ora videre  
Extremum senis, et dextram conjungere dextræ.  
Ille dies recolit priscos, ævumque labore  
Districtum ; concessa benigno numine dona,  
Et genus et natos, famamque et fata suorum.  
Qualis ubi celso sublimis monte viator  
Prospicit undantes campos et dulcia rura  
Ante pedes, veluti picta descripta tabella,  
Sole novo fulgere. Videt, visuque sub ipso  
Obstupuit : nunc huc oculos, nunc dirigit illuc,  
Et varia mentem perculsus imagine gaudet.

“ Accipe, nate,” inquit, “ mea verba extrema loquentis.  
“ Vixi equidem ; sed vita<sup>a</sup> brevis, semperque laborum  
“ Plena fuit, nec quanta meis majoribus ætas  
“ Munere cessa Dei. Præsens servavit euntem  
“ Ille per angustos calles et devia vitæ,  
“ Securamque seni dedit extra vota salutem.  
“ Jamque dies fatalis adest, et debitus ævo

<sup>a</sup> “ Few and evil have the days of the years of my life been, and have not attained unto the days of the years of my fathers in the days of their pilgrimage.”—*Gen.* xlvii. 9.

- "Terminus : ingredior lentæ confinia mortis  
 "Serus, et ad Manes mox deferar umbra paternos.  
 "Unum oro : tu, nate, patrem ne sperne precantem.  
 "Est locus antiqui super Arbæ mœnia, collis  
 "Exciso latere, et gemina spelunca latebra,  
 "Religione patrum longe sacer. Ipse sepulcrum  
 "Hoc posuit <sup>b</sup>genitor, donoque Ephronis amici  
 "Ascivitque suum, sanxitque in sæcula fœdus.  
 "Stabat enim lugubre tuens, et mæstus ademptâ  
 "Conjuge : jamque oculi lugentis et ora madebant  
 "Fletibus assiduis. Posito de funere surgit,  
 "Seque, ubi concilium primique in limine cives,  
 "Contulit in medios, blandoque hæc ore locutus :  
 " ' Da mihi <sup>c</sup>, da spatium terræ—vetus hospes amicum  
 " ' Haud spernenda precor—quo caræ conjugis ossa  
 " ' Officio decorem solito, semotaque tandem  
 " ' Ex oculis condam. Sic me tibi gratia vivax  
 " ' Conjunget, sic vera fides, et sancta sepulcri  
 " ' Religio.' Unanima consensit voce corona.

<sup>b</sup> Genesis xxiii.

<sup>c</sup> " I am a stranger and a sojourner with you : give me a possession of a burying-place with you, that I may bury my dead out of my sight."—*Gen.* xxiii. 4.

" Inde datur specus optatum, finesque per ævum  
" Esse suos. Redit ipse parens, et sacra peremptæ  
" Rite facit, positoque super dat corpore fletus  
" Extremos, omnemque loco persolvit honorem.

" Mox ubi præteriere dies ex ordine certi,  
" Ipse jacet, fato jam debitus. Ostia sacræ  
" Speluncæ patuere, cavo clausura recessu  
" Ossa viri, in terris qui servantissimus æqui  
" Hæserat usque Deo fidus comes. Illius orbi  
" Reliquias subeunt fratres<sup>d</sup>, et funus acerbum  
" Producunt. Quin pastor oves, Arabumque remotos  
" Deseruit fines prædator et arida tesqua,  
" Solveret ut suprema patri, positumque sepulcro  
" Redderet. Ille tamen caræ prope conjugis ossa  
" Æternum recubat; neque vivi fœdus amoris  
" Invida mors abolere potest. <sup>e</sup> Huc funere pastor

<sup>d</sup> " Abraham died in a good old age . . . . and his sons Isaac and Ishmael buried him in the cave of Machpelah."—*Gen.* xxv. 8.

<sup>e</sup> " There they buried Abraham and Sarah his wife; there they buried Isaac and Rebekah his wife; and there I buried Leah."—*Gen.* xlix. 31.

“ Elatus tandem, genitor meus : huc quoque mater,  
“ Huc conjux :—non illa magis dilecta <sup>f</sup> sorore,  
“ Intempestiva quam plorabamus ademptam  
“ Morte prius, metamque viæ finemque laborum  
“ Quam tetigi. Neque enim tua te sanctissima mater  
“ Ducebat puerum, neque mecum erepta senectæ  
“ Gaudia plorabat, quum te mihi tristis iniqua  
“ Sorte dies fratrumque dolus subduxit, et oris  
“ Abjecit procul ignotis. Hæc una sepulcro  
“ Conditur externo, cineres nec tangit amicos.

“ Nostra tamen patriis tu junxeris ossibus ossa  
“ Huic prærepta solo : neque enim me saxea moles  
“ Pastorem decet, et variis distincta figuris  
“ Atria ; neu reges inter jacuisse vetustos  
“ Contigerit. Jam nunc moriens tibi, nate, remitto  
“ Exsequias : tu solve memor. Sic debita reddes  
“ Munera, nec solita pietatis laude carebis.”

<sup>f</sup> “ Rachel died by me in the land of Canaan, in the way, when there was but a little way to come unto Ephrath : and I buried her there in the way of Ephrath.”—*Gen.* xlviii. 7.

Hæc ubi dicta dedit, lecto resupinus in ipso  
Sternitur, et moriens animam cum voce remittit.  
Continuo audiri voces et murmura flentum  
Per terram procul : Hebræo super hospite gentes  
Dant lacrymas, penitusque immugit regia luctu.  
Inde ubi certa dies<sup>8</sup>, volvendo tempore, finem  
Imposuit lacrymis ; properant exsolvere nati  
Vota patris memores, jussoque efferre sepulcro  
Reliquias. Tum longus agros discriminat ordo,  
Gentiles de more duces, natiq̃ue nepotesque  
Innumeri, rapiuntque viam. Comitatur euntes  
Mixta equitum peditumque cohors, Ægyptia pubes,  
Dux eademque viæ custos. Juvat addere turmas  
Et monstrare iter, et longum producere funus.  
Inde ubi per fines Arabum, deserta locorum,  
Vastum iter emensi tandem, nova protinus arva,  
Arva diu promissa suis, patriamque futuram,  
Prospiciunt visuque inhiant. Jordanis ad amnem  
Instituunt varios, sollemnia munera, ludos ;  
Et septem de more dies ululatibus implent  
Funereis vallem. Manet usque in sæcula luctus

<sup>8</sup> Gen. l. 4—13.

Fama diu, signantque locum <sup>h</sup> cognomine gentes.  
 Interea jusso patris dant ossa sepulcro  
 Haud voti immemores : iterum patuere recessus  
 Secreti, penitusque cavæ, domus ultima gentis,  
 Apparent latebræ. Perfecto tristis honore  
 Stat fratrum manus, et jam jamque abitura moratur,  
 Fixi oculos, ceu qui patriam cineresque paternos  
 -Supremum aspiciant, intabescantque videndo.

Prisca fides facto ; sed non vetus interit annis  
 Religio, pietasque sacri non immemor antri  
 Tradidit in seros famamque locumque nepotes.  
 Hinc honor assidueque preces : hinc, maxime regum,  
 Exstructæ pietate tua<sup>i</sup>, sic fabula, moles  
 In cœlum, cinctique aditus atque ostia muro.  
 Nunc etiam stupet ore inhians ingentia pastor

<sup>h</sup> " Abel-Mizraim " = " the mourning (or ' meadow ' ) of the Egyptians. " — *Gen.* l. 11.

<sup>i</sup> Both Jewish and Mussulman traditions ascribe the massive walls which form the enclosure of the mosque to David or Solomon : and the Mussulman name for it at the present day is " The Wall of Solomon. " — Vid. STANLEY'S *Jewish Church*, App. II. p. 486.

Mœnia, reliquias ævi, rupesque labore  
Rupibus impositas, disjectaque saxa ruina :  
Exactos secum ille dies, et fata priorum  
Stat recolens, animumque ignarus imagine pascit.

Ac veluti tumulos inter, loca pallida mortis,  
Flamma salit, lugubre micans, quam terra vapore  
Ipsa suo, cæcisque aluerunt viribus umbræ :  
Haud aliter per sæcla virum, per tristia gentis  
Excidia, et varios terræque hominumque labores,  
Priscus adhuc servatus honos, et magna sepulcri  
Religio. Hinc hominum late consensus, et ævi  
Certa fides, titulusque<sup>k</sup> Dei demissus amico.  
Semper enim precibus gentes et supplice ritu  
Servavere locum, <sup>l</sup>læsi ne forte sepulcri  
Exigerent pœnas, violato numine, manes.

<sup>k</sup> The Mussulman name for Hebron is "El-Khalil," the "Friend" (of God).

<sup>l</sup> "The peculiar feeling which has tended to preserve the sanctity of the place—an awe, amounting to terror, of the great personages who lay beneath, and who would, it was supposed, be sensitive to any disrespect shown to their graves, and revenge it accordingly."—STANLEY'S *Jewish Church*, App. II. p. 497.

Ergo non potuere dies, non sævior armis  
Roma, gravis terræ domitrix, et ferrea jura  
Cæsaris antiquum venerandæ rupis honorem  
Eruere, et cultus animis abolere priores.  
Atque ubi jam, volvente die, gens dura Sabæi  
Præcipiti fidens animo et victricibus armis  
Irruerat, sævoque implebat milite campos ;  
Non tamen hi famæ veteris, veterisque sepulcri  
Immemores sacris iterum sollemnibus instant  
Et ritu decorare novo. Mox præsidet antro  
Lecta sacerdotum manus, et custodia servat  
Arcta locum : clausere aditus atque ostia circum  
Speluncæ simul, et posuere ingentia templa.  
Nulli fas sacrum peregrino insistere limen,  
Nec primas transire fores. Hic sæpe viator  
Exclusus stetit, ut secum miracula versat  
Tanta loci, subitoque ineundi impletur amore :  
Nequicquam—neque enim portas reserare malignas  
Dona valent, crebræque preces : immota resistit  
Custodum male firma fides, et nescia flecti  
Religio. Tantum potuit suadere vetustas.



Scilicet hos etiam mores, hæc tanta locorum  
Præsidia, astrictasque tenent quæ vincula mentes  
Tanta religione hominum, nova tempora mutant  
Paullatim, laxatque annis volventibus usus.  
Ac velut obscuras superimpendentibus umbras  
Arboribus, si forte comam dimoverit aura,  
Illustrat jubar admissum, tremulaque per herbas  
Luce vagum clausas aperit caligine silvæ  
Delicias ; sic grata viam sperantibus hora  
Dat facilem, panditque fores<sup>m</sup> non ante patentem.  
Primo claustra tibi, Princeps, superasse maligna  
Portarum datur, et sacros impune recessus  
Conspexisse. Valet tantum regni alta Britanni  
Majestas, et sancta verendo nomine vota.

Ecce tamen portas subeunt et inhospita templi  
Mœnia ; suspiciunt, spe jam propiore trementes  
Corda viatores, cœptisque audacibus instant.  
Nec mora ; sentit enim laxis vestigia claustris

<sup>m</sup> For an account of the Prince of Wales's visit to the Mosque of Hebron, in April 1862, and description of its interior, see Dr. Stanley's "Lectures on the Jewish Church," Appendix II.

Impatiens vetitosque invito limine gressus  
Janua : custodes gemere, atque horrescere visu.  
Jamque sub ingenti collustrant singula templo  
Attoniti, delubra patrum, cælataque ferro  
Claustra, coloratasque super, velamina<sup>n</sup> regum,  
Mirantur vestes, gemmasque et dona piorum.  
Quinetiam angustos aditus et parva sepulcri  
Ostia despiciunt. Imo hinc venit<sup>o</sup> halitus antro,  
(Ut referunt) sacratque locum : pendetque catena  
Desuper et tenebras inter micat unica lampas ;—  
Manibus illa quidem sera acceptissima nocte,  
Nec medio, sic fama, die. Mirantur euntes  
Scilicet, atque omnem revocant ab origine famam :  
Priscus agrum quo pacto hospes—solatia luctus  
Exigua ingentis—propriumque in vota sepulcrum  
Quæsierit ; qui deinde viri, quæ funera sedem  
Gentis honestarint ; quove adspirante beati  
Numine tradiderint æternum in sæcula nomen.

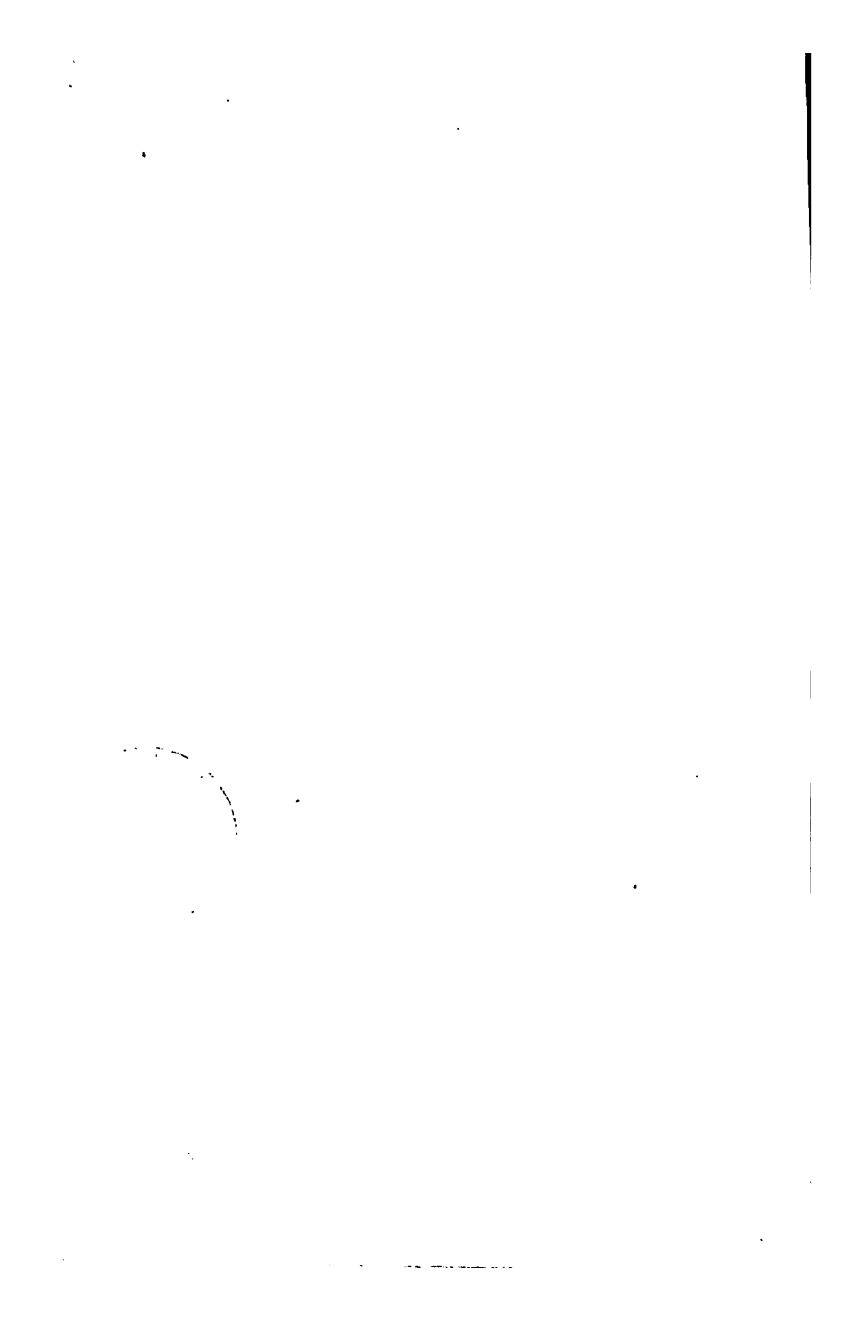
<sup>n</sup> The embroidered carpets hung over the shrine of Abraham are said to have been the gift of Mohamed II, the conqueror of Constantinople, Selim I, the conqueror of Egypt, and the late Sultan Abdul Medjid.

<sup>o</sup> Vid. " Jewish Church," p. 501.

Talia versanti species evanida rerum  
Volvitur ante oculos, et non reditura sub auras  
Sæcula. Quinetiam surgunt longo ordine gentes  
Præteritæ; redeunt, si quos subvexit in astra  
Fama procul, si quos pietas et vivida virtus.  
Ceum quondam veteres animo revocamus amicos,  
Oblito annorum lapsu, et juvenilibus acta  
Temporibus: vana juvat intus imagine pasci.  
Et varias iterare vices et tristia fatis  
Mixta bonis: noti coram consurgere vultus,  
Et simul audiri notæ inter somnia voces.  
Sic, tellus Judæa, patrum longæva tuorum  
Spectanti monumenta, redit felicior ætas  
In mentem, lûcesque aliæ, dum prospera rebus  
Adspirat fortuna tuis. Heu! nescia sortis  
Gens altæ, sanctæque (nefas!) tot sæcula legis  
Impatiens. Meritas sed enim pro crimine pœnas,  
Ipsi olim dilecta Deo, nunc sparsa per oras  
Terrarum dedit extremas. Aliena labore  
Pingue solum exercet manus, et ditissima gleba  
Dat facilem externis victum. Quin ridet oliva,  
Ridet inexhausto florescens ubere vitis:

Purpurei passim flores et pingua cultu  
Gramina. Tot scelere amisit gens illa paterno  
Delicias, tot ruris opes, tot præmia vitæ.  
Non tamen interiit, curis urgentibus, omnis  
Spes ævi melioris : ab imo fonte dolorum  
Surgit dulce aliquid, tenebræque et nubila certum  
Lumen habent. Deus ipse suam per sæcula gentem  
Servat, inexpletum invigilans, dum mollia discat  
Sceptra pati, cœloque datum cognoscere Regem.

T. L. PAPILLON.

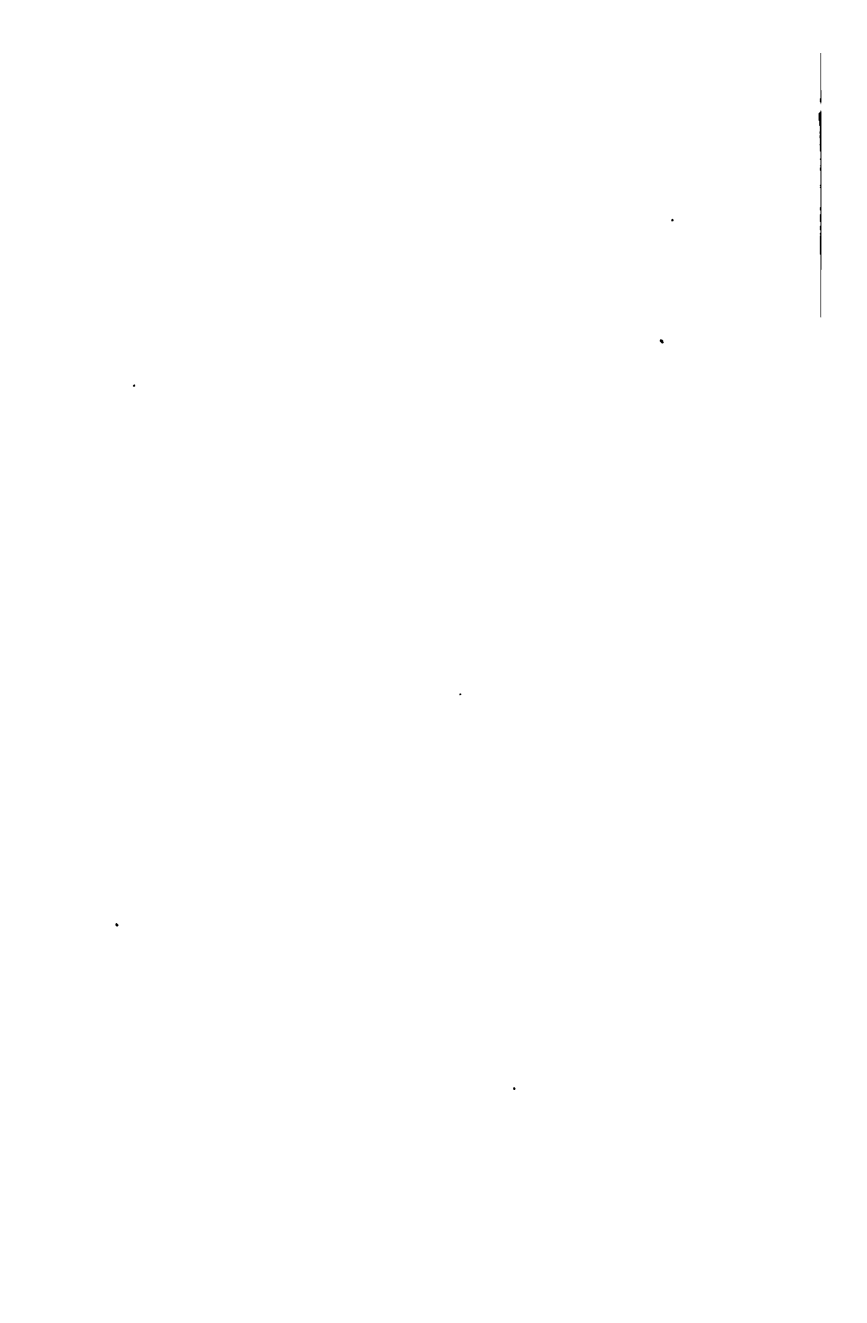






































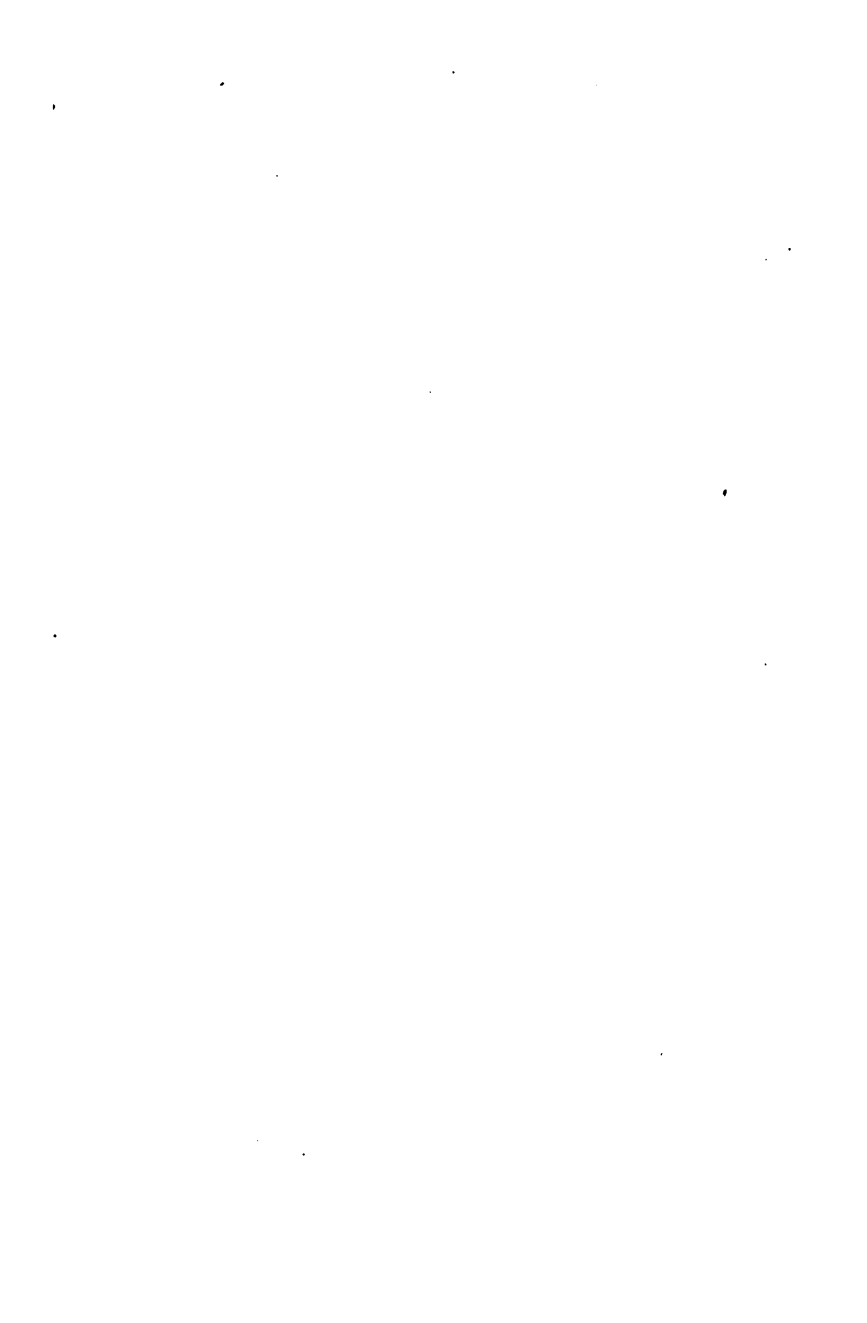
































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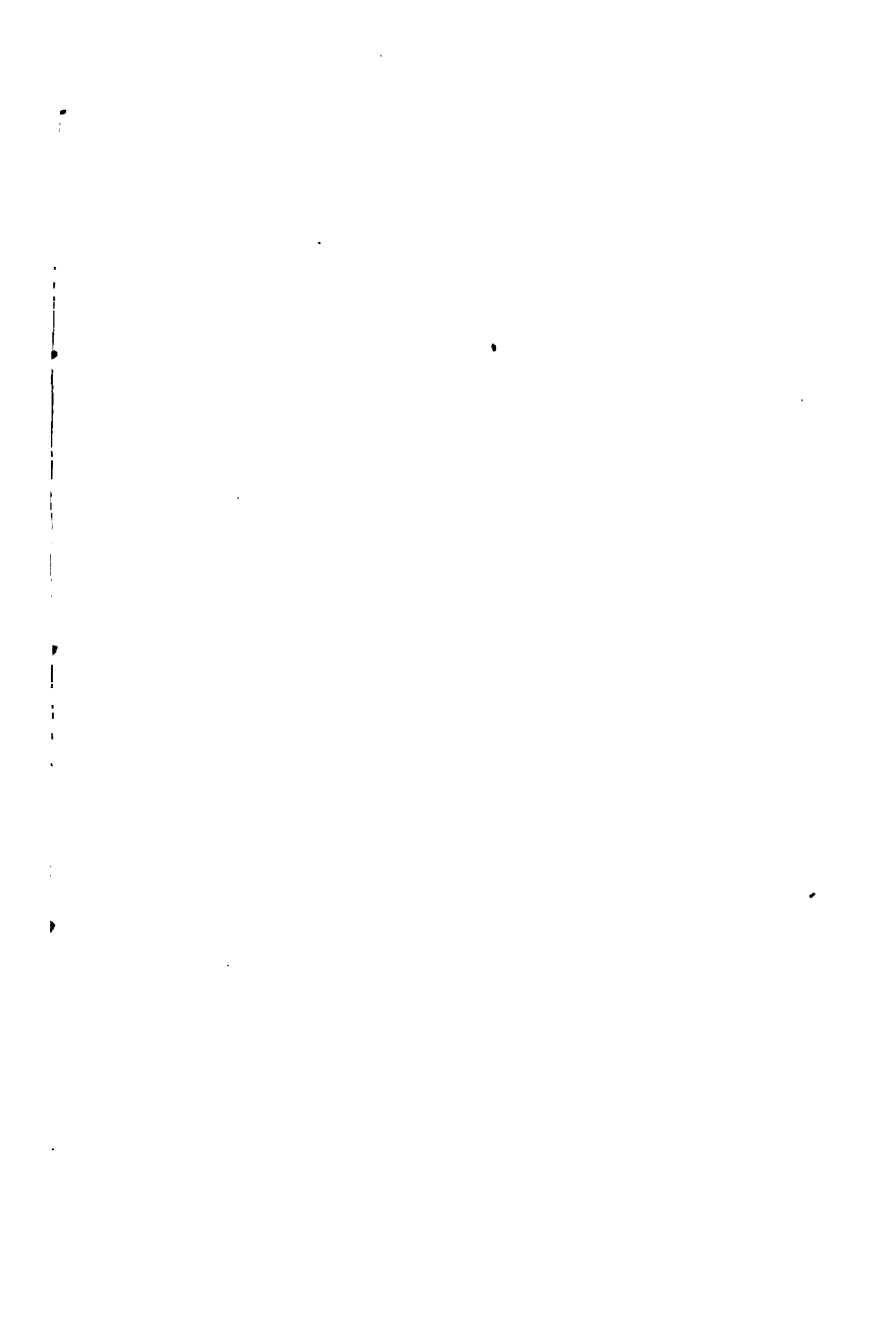
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